

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A water heater security system adapted to hold ~~the~~a water heater in a generally fixed relationship with an adjacent wall, the system comprising:

at least one strap assembly adapted to ~~extending~~ around at least a portion of the water heater;

the strap assembly having a first end, a second end, and a woven, flexible configuration free of sharp edges;

a first wall bracket adapted to be attached to the wall on a first side of the water heater;

a second wall bracket adapted to be attached to the wall on a second side of the water heater opposite to the first side;

the first end of the strap assembly having a fixed relationship with the first wall bracket; and

the second end of the strap assembly having an adjustable relationship with the second wall bracket to permit movement of the second end of the strap assembly between a first position wherein the strap assembly has a first length between the first wall bracket and the second wall bracket, and a second position wherein the strap assembly has a second length shorter than the first length between the first wall bracket and the second wall bracket.

2. (Previously presented) The water heater security system recited in Claim 1, wherein the strap assembly comprises a single strap having the first end and the second end.

3. (Previously presented) The water heater security system recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the strap assembly includes a first strap having the first end and an opposing third end, and a second strap having the second end and an opposing fourth end; and

the system further comprises:

a buckle for attaching the third end of the first strap in a fixed relationship to the fourth end of the second strap.

4. (Original) The water heater security system recited in Claim 3, wherein the buckle has an adjustable relationship with one of the third end of the first strap and the fourth end of the second strap.

5. (Original) The water heater security system recited in Claim 4, wherein the buckle has an adjustable relationship with the other of the third end of the first strap and the fourth end of the second strap.

6. (Currently amended) The water heater security system recited in Claim 3, wherein the buckle further comprises:

a first portion of the buckle bent back on a second portion of the buckle and defining a channel therebetween; and

a slide engagable by the third end of the strap and movable within the channel to form a fixed relationship between the buckle and the third end of the first strap.

7. (Original) The water heater security system recited in Claim 6, wherein the slide includes side flanges to maintain the slide in the channel.
8. (Currently amended) The water heater security system recited in Claim 6, wherein the second portions of the buckle ~~have~~has side flanges to maintain the slide in the channel.
9. (Currently amended) A buckle adapted to receive a first strap ~~end~~ in an adjustably fixed relationship and a second strap, comprising:
 - an inner portion disposed generally in a first plane;
 - an outer portion bent back on the inner portion and disposed generally in a second plane parallel to the first plane;
 - the outer portion forming a first sidebar with the inner portion, the first sidebar being generally parallel to the first plane of the ~~first~~inner portion and the second plane of the ~~second~~outer portion and having a first pair of strap engagement edges;
 - the inner portion and the outer portion defining with the first sidebar a channel;
 - a slide movable within the channel generally parallel to the first sidebar, the slide having a second pair of strap engagement edges whereby the first strap can be threaded around the slide and cinched tightly to engage the first strap with the first and second pair of strap engagement edges and thereby form the fixed relationship with the buckle; and
 - a bar adapted to engage the second strap.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The buckle recited in Claim 9 wherein:

~~the strap end is a first strap end; and~~

the inner portion of the buckle is adapted for attachment to a wall.

12. (Currently amended) The buckle recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

side flanges formed alternatively on the ~~first~~inner portion of the buckle and the slide of the buckle.

13. (Previously presented) The water heater security system recited in Claim 1, wherein the strap assembly comprises a non-metallic material.

14. (Currently amended) A water heater security system adapted to hold the water heater in a generally fixed relationship with an adjacent wall, the system comprising:

a first wall bracket adapted to be attached to the wall on a first side of the water heater;

a second wall bracket adapted to be attached to the wall on a second side of the water heater opposite to the first side;

a strap assembly coupled to the first wall bracket and the second wall bracket, the strap assembly comprising a woven, flexible configuration and extending around at least a portion of the water heater; and

the strap assembly being adjustable between a first position wherein the strap assembly holds the water heater securely and a second position wherein the strap assembly does not hold the water heater securely.

15. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 14, wherein the strap assembly comprises a single strap having a first end and a second end.

16. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 15, wherein:
- the first end of the single strap has a fixed relationship with the first wall bracket;
and
 - the second of the single strap has an adjustable relationship with the second wall bracket.
17. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 15, wherein:
- the first end of the single strap has an adjustable relationship with the first wall bracket; and
 - the second of the single strap has an adjustable relationship with the second wall bracket.
18. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 14, wherein the strap assembly comprises:
- a first strap having a first outer end coupled to the first wall bracket and a first inner end;
 - a second strap having a second outer end coupled to the second wall bracket and a second inner end; and
 - a buckle coupling the first inner end and the second inner end.
19. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein the buckle has an adjustable relationship with one of the first inner end and the second inner end.
20. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the buckle has an adjustable relationship with the other of the first inner end and the second inner end.
21. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein:
- the first outer end has a fixed relationship with the first wall bracket; and

the second outer end has a fixed relationship with the second wall bracket.

22. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein:

the first outer end has a fixed relationship with the first wall bracket; and

the second outer end has an adjustable relationship with the second wall bracket.

23. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein:

the first outer end has an adjustable relationship with the first wall bracket; and

the second outer end has an adjustable relationship with the second wall bracket.

24. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 14, wherein the strap assembly comprises a non-metallic material.

25. (New) The buckle recited in Claim 9, wherein the bar comprises a crossbar.

26. (New) The buckle recited in Claim 9, wherein the bar comprises a second side bar.